MARVEL KNIGHTS
FOUR OF FOUR
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SPIDER-MAN
DAREDEVIL
JENKINS
WINSLADE
PALMER

YEAH... 'KAY, STUART. SURE. UH-HUH.
WELL, WHY'RE YOU ASKIN' ME...?
I DON'T CARE WHAT WILLIAM SAYS -- I'M NOT TOUCHIN' THEM JAPANESE TECH STOCKS WITH A TEN FOOT POLE COVERED IN WOMBAT'S DUNG.
HEY... DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT PUTTIN' ME ON HOLD, BUDDY! I STILL GOT SOME INFLUENCE IN THIS TOWN, IN CASE YOU FORGOT, YEAH. THA'S RIGHT.
THA'S NOT THE POINT -- YOU KNOW I LIKE TO GAMBLE. THE POINT IS, YOU PUT ALL YER MONEY INTO THEM TECH STOCKS...
...YER GONNA CRASH AN' BURN. YOU'LL LOSE IT ALL, MAN!
S'NOT GAMBLING, STUART -- IT'S THROWING YOUR MONEY AWAY. WELL, THEN... YOU TELL WILLIAM --
-- HOLY #@%$!

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WITH THESE HUMAN SOULS AND INNUMERABLE DAMNATIONS MORE DO I SUMMON THEE, MY LORD OF DARKNESS.
TO PROVE MY LOVE, I OFFER THESE EXECRABLE GIFTS OF BLOOD AND CHITTERLINGS AND VISCERA MOST FOUL -- DIPPED IN PUS AND RANCOR, FLAVORED WITH THE STENCH OF HUMAN PUSILLANIMITY.
COME... TASTE OF THIS REALM, MY BELOVED -- WHO IS CALLED LUCIFER AND AHRIMANES, ZAMIEL, BEELZEBUB, COROBAN AND A MILLION OTHER SECRET NAMES.
YOUR WAY SHALL BE PAVED WITH THE CRIES OF THE DYING AND THE HEART-ECHOES OF THE DEAD, WHO GIVE FREELY OF THEIR BLOOD IN THE NAME OF AVARICE.
THIS SHALL BE YOUR NEW CALCUTTA, YOUR EMBASSY TO THIS WORLD -- A STAGING POST INTO A THOUSAND TOMORROWS OF HATRED, A BEACHHEAD INTO THE FERTILE SOULGROUND OF MANKIND.

I GIVE YOU... NEW PERDITION!

DAREDEVIL SPIDER-MAN UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

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PART FOUR THINGS GET WORSE

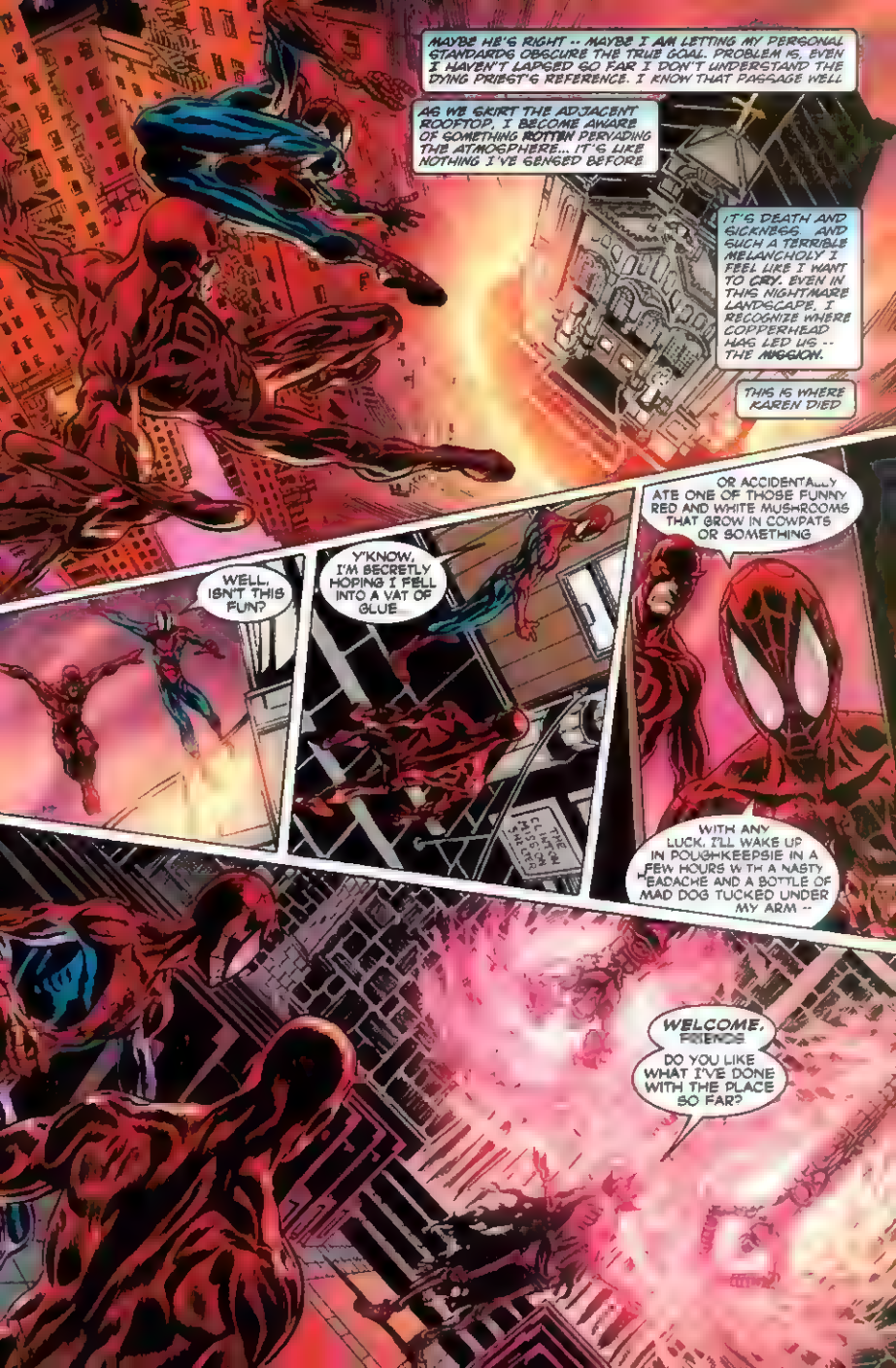
NOTHING! DO YOU HEAR ME, FOGGY NELSON?
NOTHING!
OHH... AND I FELT CERTAIN THERE WOULD BE INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE IN THE FAT MAN'S SAFES.
BUT I FOUND ONLY COINS AND JEWELS AND PICTURES OF HIS UGLY CAT.
NOTHING OF ANY USE TO US... NOT A PICKLE --
IT'S "NOT A SAUSAGE," ACTUALLY, AND AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN USE --
WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I SAID IT'S "SAUSAGE," NOT "PICKLE --"
NO, NO... THE OTHER THING. WHAT WAS THE OTHER THING?
I SAID, "AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN USE."

...AND, AS WE REPORTED TO YOU EARLIER LIVE HERE ON WXNK...
"...A THREE-BLOCK STRETCH JUST SOUTHEAST OF THE VENTURI DOCKSIDE APARTMENTS FINDS ITSELF EARLY THIS MORNING ENCASED IN AN IMPENETRABLE COSMIC ENERGY BUBBLE.
"THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THIS MYSTERIOUS STRUCTURE IS CAUSING MAJOR DISRUPTIONS IN THE EARLY MORNING COMMUTE, WITH TRAFFIC NOW BACKED UP FOR AT LEAST TWENTY BLOCKS IN ALL DIRECTIONS.
"IF YOU'RE HEADING DOWN TO THE DOCKSIDE BUSINESS DISTRICT, BETTER START PLANNING AN ALTERNATE ROUTE, FOLKS! NOW, OVER TO DONNY O'TOOLE, LIVE AT THE SCENE."
"MARTHA, I'M DOWN HERE JUST OUTSIDE THE GIANT DOME, WHICH RISES SOME THREE THOUSAND FEET ABOVE ME TO THE WEST. IT'S AN ASTONISHING SIGHT, AND A SITUATION, QUITE FRANKLY, THAT'S CAUGHT SOME OF NEW YORK'S FINEST MINDS COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.
"IN AN EARLIER STATEMENT, REED RICHARDS OF THE SUPER HERO GROUP, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, REVEALED THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTACT WITH MUTANT DEVIANTS, ALIEN LIFEFORMS OR ANY OTHER PARTY CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY.
"EXPERTS CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION, WHILE ALL ATTEMPTS TO REACH THOSE TRAPPED INSIDE HAVE PROVEN FRUITLESS SO FAR. AS TO THEIR FATE, ONLY TIME WILL TELL --"
UURH!
LOVELY CLASS OF FRUITCAKE YOU HANG WITH, D. MIND TELLING ME WHO WE'RE FIGHTING NOW?

TCH... ZOMBIES. WELL, THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD, IF YOU ASK ME.
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THEY'LL BE ROUND BORROWING CUPS OF BLOOD AND LEAVING BODY PARTS ALL OVER THE STREETS --
GGUHH...
BLAM BLAM
LOOK OUT!
THWIP
NO PROBLEM... I GOT IT.
YEAH! MAYBE YOU'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU CALL SOMEONE A "GGUHH" IN THE FUTURE.
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M TALKING TO YOU, DEAD BOY --
SPIDER-MAN...
REST EASY, FATHER. WE'RE HERE NOW --
...UHH... YOU ARE OF THE FAITH... AREN'T YOU? I HEAR IT IN YOUR VOICE...
LISTEN TO ME... THE DEVIL WALKS THE EARTH...
...YOU'LL FACE YOUR DAMNATION... BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER... MY SON...

PLEASE, FATHER... TRY NOT TO SAY ANYMORE --
YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME... THE KEY TO THIS DAMNATION...
ROMANS... TWELVE...
...TWENTY-ONE...
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO COPPERHEAD -- HE'S THE SOURCE OF ALL THIS.
ROMANS, HUH?
NOW, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY... IS THAT THE BIT WITH THE SONS OF ISRAEL AND THE TWELVE KANGAROOS --?
A MAN OF THE CLOTH DIED HERE, PETER. IS THAT FUNNY TO YOU?
IS IT?
HEY, HERE'S A NOVEL THOUGHT, DAREDEVIL: WHY DON'T YOU BACK OFF?
"IS THAT FUNNY TO YOU?" JUST WHO THE HELL D'YOU THINK YOU ARE ANYWAY?

I DIDN'T MEAN --
YES, YOU DID! WHAT YOU MEANT WAS, "STOP GOOFING OFF AND DO IT MY WAY!" WELL, GUESS WHAT? I'M NOT YOU!
YOU THINK JUST BECAUSE WE ALL WAKE UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF YOUR MORAL VISION NONE OF US COULD POSSIBLY SUFFER AS MUCH AS YOU DO?
WAIT, I --
I'M NOT FINISHED! I KID AROUND THROUGH ALL THIS LUNACY BECAUSE THAT'S MY WAY OF DEALING WITH IT, OKAY?
THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO SIT AROUND AT HOME AND MOPE ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED IN THE CITY TODAY, AND WHO WENT WITHOUT FOOD, AND WHAT I COULD'VE DONE TO MAKE IT DIFFERENT.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE "ZEN WARRIOR FROM HELL'S KITCHEN" FOR THIS LIFETIME.
SO, INSTEAD OF DRAGGING ME DOWN, HOW ABOUT YOU LIGHTEN UP?
JUDGING BY ALL THE MYSTICAL ENERGY CRACKLY STUFF, I'D SAY OUR PROBLEM'S ABOUT TWO BLOCKS FROM HERE.
WHAT SAY WE DEAL WITH THAT CRISIS BEFORE YOU TAKE TIME OUT TO SET ME ON THE PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT, HUH?


MAYBE HE'S RIGHT -- MAYBE I AM LETTING MY PERSONAL STANDARDS OBSCURE THE TRUE GOAL. PROBLEM IS, EVEN IF HAVEN'T LAPSED SO FAR I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DYING PRIEST'S REFERENCE. I KNOW THAT PASSAGE WELL
AS WE SKIRT THE ADJACENT ROOFTOP, I BECOME AWARE OF SOMETHING ROTTEN PERVADING THE ATMOSPHERE... IT'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE SENSED BEFORE
IT'S DEATH AND SICKNESS, AND SUCH A TERRIBLE MELANCHOLY I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO CRY. EVEN IN THIS NIGHTMARE LANDSCAPE, I RECOGNIZE WHERE COPPERHEAD HAS LED US -- THE WAGGON.
THIS IS WHERE KAREN DIED
WELL, ISN'T THIS FUN?
Y'KNOW, I'M SECRETLY HOPING I FELL INTO A VAT OF GLUE
OR ACCIDENTALLY ATE ONE OF THOSE FUNNY RED AND WHITE MUSHROOMS THAT GROW IN COWPATS OR SOMETHING
WITH ANY LUCK, I'LL WAKE UP IN POUGHKEEPSIE IN A FEW HOURS W TH A NASTY HEADACHE AND A BOTTLE OF MAD DOG TUCKED UNDER MY ARM --
WELCOME, FRIENDS
DO YOU LIKE WHAT I'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE SO FAR?

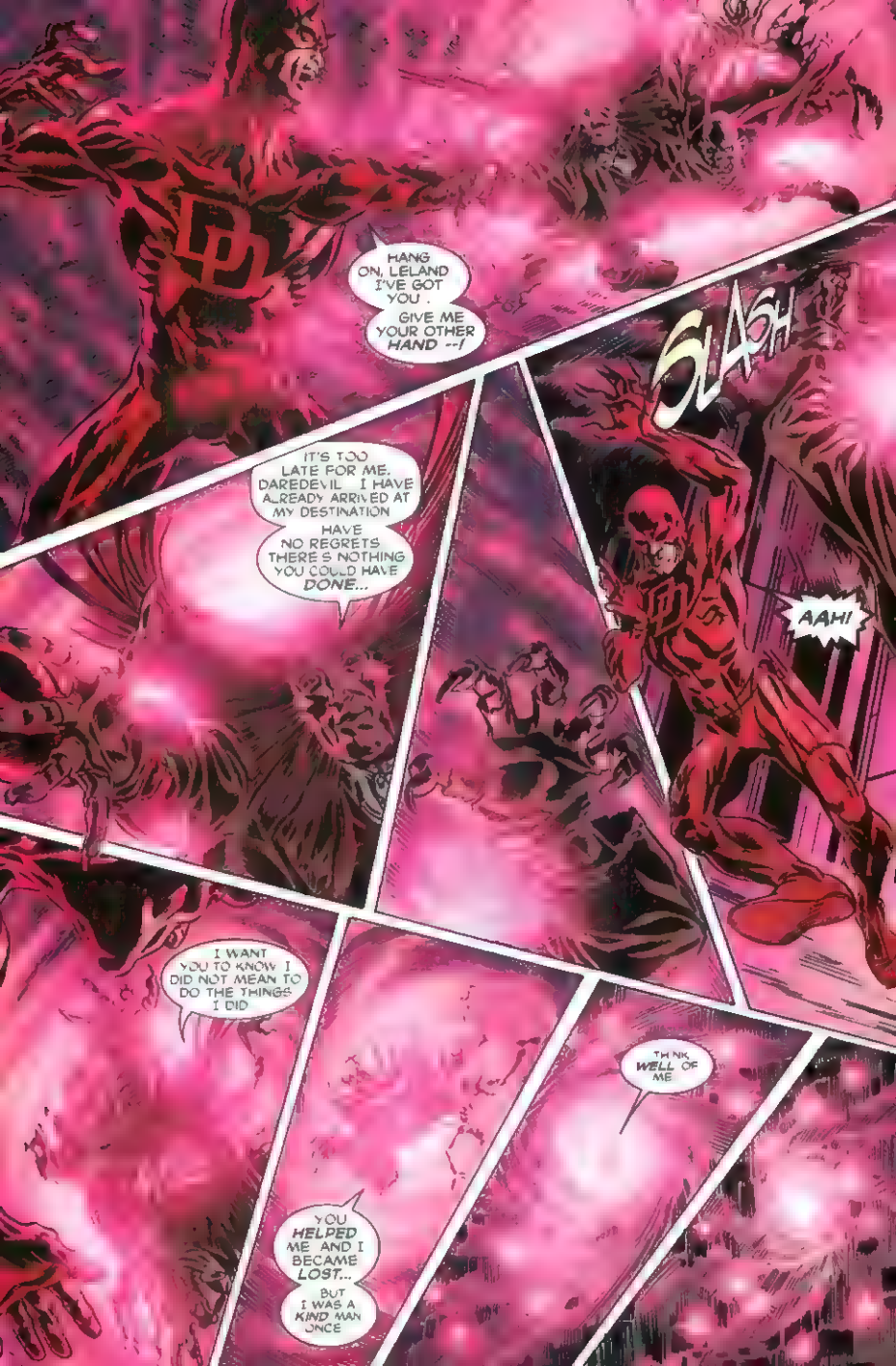
OH, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THESE TWO. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP THEM NOW-- THEY'RE TOO FAR GONE.
THEY'RE GETTING A TASTE OF TOMORROW, SO TO SPEAK.
NONO NONONO NONO
NONO NONONO NONO
AAH! AAH!
AAH! AAH!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
I DON'T KNOW
THEIR [redacted] ARE GOING LIKE JACKHAMMERS, AND THEIR BODY TEMPERATURES ARE THROUGH THE ROOF
IT MIGHT BE SOME KIND OF HALLUCINATION.
IT MIGHT BE REAL, DAREDEVIL -- I THOUGHT ALL YOU STUBBORN LITTLE CATHOLICS BELIEVED IN THAT SORT OF THING.
I DIDN'T, OF COURSE
NOT UNTIL YOU MURDERED ME...
AND I WAS MADE TO DISCOVER THE REALITY OF HELL ALL FOR MYSELF

YEAH, WELL. WHATEVER.
DD, YOU KEEP OLD SKELETOR THERE BUSY FOR A MINUTE WHILE I TAKE CARE OF THESE TWO
C'MON GUYS, I GOT Y --
-AAAHHHHH!

YOU SEE, I'VE *BEEN* TO HELL, AND FOUND THAT ITS LORD DOESN'T *WANT* MY BLACK HEART -- HE HAS COUNTLESS BILLIONS OF THOSE
HE WANTS *PURE* SOULS.
ONLY A WORTHY OFFERING WILL CLOSE THE PORTAL I HAVE OPENED FOR HIM.
I WANT TO THANK *YOU* ESPECIALLY, DAREDEVIL -- FOR HAD YOU NOT MURDERED ME, I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN IN A POSITION TO SEE ETERNITY AND *ESCAPE* IT
THIS IS TO BE MY *GIFT*, DAREDEVIL.
THESE HUMAN HUSKS OF MISERY, AVARICE AND AMBITION --
-- AN OFFERING TO MY LORD OF DARKNESS, IN RETURN FOR MY *REDEMPTION*.
TO USE AN OWL TO BAIT A TRAP TO CATCH A SPIDER TO GET TO *YOU*, THAT'S VERY
...*WAIT*... WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*
GIVING YOU WHAT YOU *WANT*.

WELL, THEN THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG. I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THE DEPRAVITY OF MY REVENGE, DAREDEVIL. YOU SENT ME TO HELL . AND I'M GOING TO RETURN THE FAVOR
GO AHEAD PULL THE TRIGGER
TELL ME AS THE BULLET OPENS UP YOUR SKULL WILL YOU HAVE TIME ENOUGH TIME TO CONSIDER THE *RAMIFICATIONS*, POOR LITTLE LOST SHEEP?
DOES A SUICIDE THAT SAVES OTHERS COUNT AS A SUICIDE? WHAT IF YOUR GOD *ABANDONS* YOU?
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO GOOD LITTLE CATHOLICS WHO TAKE THEIR OWN LIVES. THERE'S NO FORGIVENESS IN GOD'S HEART FOR THE MORTAL SIN YOU'RE ABOUT TO COMMIT
THAT COKED-UP LITTLE JEZEBEL YOU LOVED SO WELL -- IF YOU PULL THE TRIGGER, WILL YOU EVER SEE HER AGAIN IN ALL ETERNITY?
KAREN
WHAK

NOW I UNDERSTAND :SNKKT: I HAVE BEEN A BLIND FOOL.
I KNOW YOU, DEVIL — YOU WERE INSIDE MY MIND ALL ALONG.
IF YOU MUST HAVE A SOUL :SNKKT: YOU SHALL HAVE MINE!
OWL, STOP! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING —
ON THE CONTRARY, DAREDEVIL... :HUFF:.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS I FINALLY DO.../
OWLSLEY!

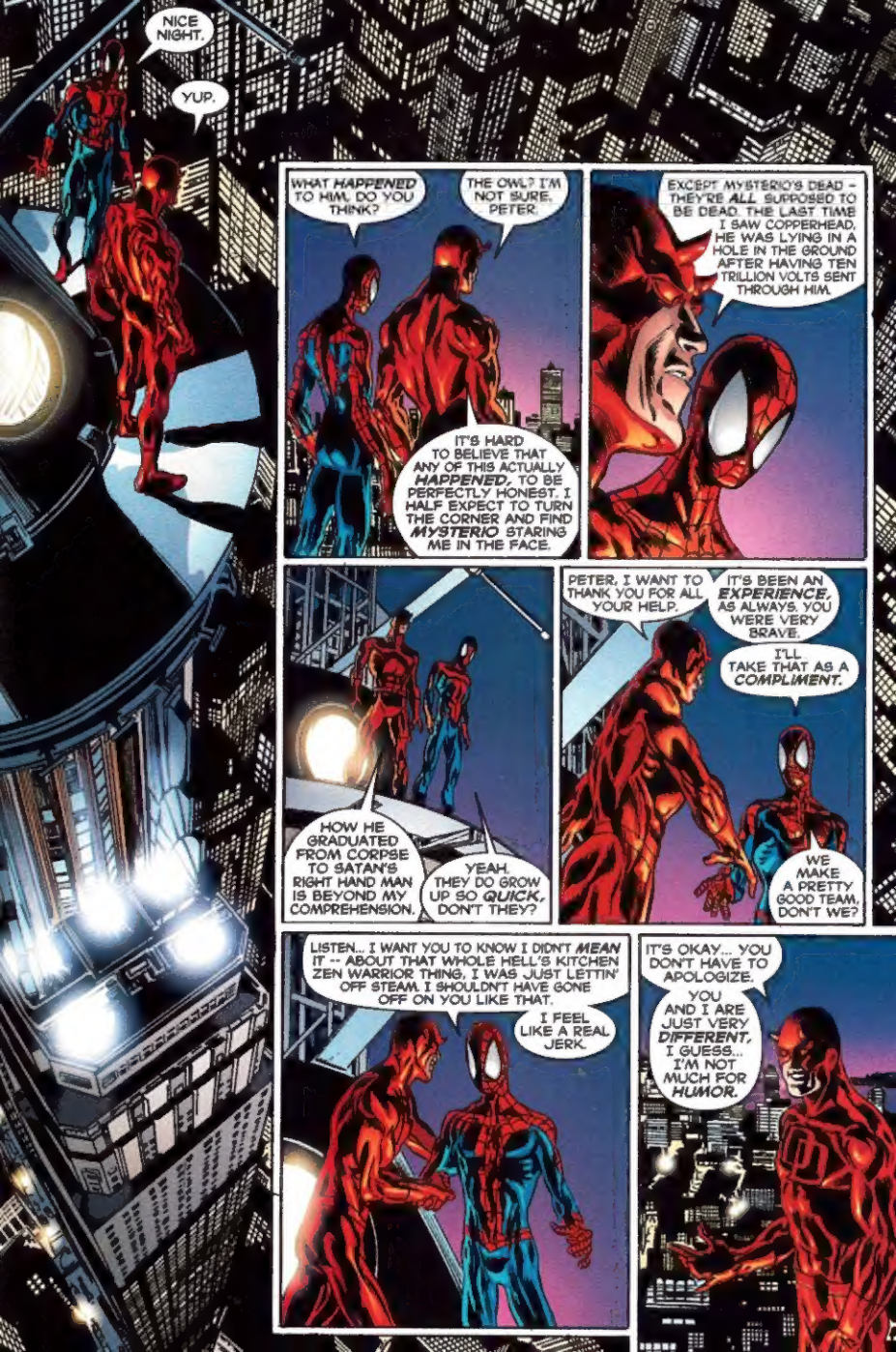

HANG ON, LELAND I'VE GOT YOU.
GIVE ME YOUR OTHER HAND --!
SLASH
IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME, DAREDEVIL. I HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED AT MY DESTINATION
HAVE NO REGRETS. THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE...
AAH!
I WANT YOU TO KNOW I DID NOT MEAN TO DO THE THINGS I DID
THINK WELL OF ME
YOU HELPED ME AND I BECAME LOST...
BUT I WAS A KIND MAN ONCE

DO NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL,
BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD
-- ROMANS 12:21

YOU'RE LATE.
I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT, FISK --
WHY NOT, MISTER MURDOCK? YOU DO SUCH A GOOD JOB OF IT, AFTER ALL. BUT, TO BUSINESS...
I'VE HAD RATHER AN UNUSUAL MORNING TRYING TO PERSUADE THE AUTHORITIES THAT THIS RECENT DISTURBANCE --
-- WAS ACTUALLY AN ELABORATE MOVIE SET FOR A MOTION PICTURE BEING PRODUCED BY FISK ENTERPRISES
NEW YORK IS GOING TO HELL ANYWAY. JUST LOOK AT WHO'S REPRESENTING US IN THE SENATE
WEL... AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THE MAYOR AND HIS CRONIES ARE UP IN ARMS ABOUT IT. SOMETHING ABOUT AUTHORIZAT ON AND PERFORMANCE LICENSES AND SO ON.
AS MY CURRENT LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE, I CAN'T SAY HOW MUCH PLEASURE IT GIVES ME THAT YOU'LL BE SORTING THIS ALL OUT FOR ME --
ACTUALLY, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT -- ABOUT THE WHOLE LEGAL REPRESENTATION THING
I'M AFRAID WE HAVE A SMALL DILEMMA ON OUR HANDS
UM GOOD MORNING, MISTER FISK.

WHAT'S THIS? I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY GAMES --
NO GAMES, MISTER FISK. YOU REMEMBER MY PARTNER, MISTER NELSON, DON'T YOU? FOGGY, WILL YOU DO THE HONORS.
UM. WELL, I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE, MISTER FISK, THAT AS YOUR ATTORNEYS...
...WE CANNOT PROCEED IN REPRESENTING YOU IN THE EVENT THAT ANY WRONGDOING OR ILLEGAL PROCEDURES ON YOUR PART COME TO OUR ATTENTION.
UM. AS YOU MAY KNOW, I RECENTLY VISITED YOUR ACCOUNTING FIRM IN WISCONSIN, AND EXAMINED CERTAIN, UM... RECORDS AND LEDGERS.
I'M OBLIGED TO INFORM YOU, MISTER FISK, THAT NEW YORK CITY BUILDING CODES CALLED FOR A COMPLETE BAN ON THE USE OF LEAD-BASED PAINT OVER FORTY YEARS AGO.
BUT IN FACT, UM... THE CONTRACTORS YOU PAID TO REPAINT THE INTERIORS LAST FEBRUARY USED SUCH SURPLUS MATERIALS WITH YOUR FULL KNOWLEDGE. YOU'RE LOOKING AT SOME PRETTY HAIRY LAWSUITS IF THAT EVER COMES OUT, SIR.
LEAD PAINT? LEAD PAINT? ARE YOU TRYING TO BLACKMAIL ME --?
WELL, OF COURSE WE ARE. WE ARE LAWYERS, FOR GOD'S SAKE.
WELCOME TO LITIGIOUS AMERICA, MISTER FISK -- THERE'S SOMEONE WAITING FOR A WINDFALL ON EVERY CORNER. AND, OF COURSE, I WOULD BE DUTY BOUND TO REPORT THIS INDISCRETION IF I WERE TO CONTINUE AS YOUR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE.
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS CITY WOULD DO TO YOU IF THEY FOUND OUT YOU'D SO RECKLESSLY JEOPARDIZED THE HEALTH OF YOUR EMPLOYEES LIKE THIS?
WELL, IT WOULDN'T BE PRETTY, I'D IMAGINE.
OUR BILL WILL BE IN THE MAIL, MISTER FISK. DO CALL US AGAIN WHEN YOU NEED OUR SERVICES, WON'T YOU?

:AH-HUHH:... OH, CHRIST... I THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE A HEART ATTACK.
I THINK THAT'S THE MOST SURREAL THING I'VE EVER DONE.
HEY, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING AMISS WHEN THE LAWYERS ARE THE GOOD GUYS. WAY TO KEEP IT TOGETHER IN THERE, FOG -- I'M PROUD OF YOU.
SURE. HEY, LISTEN... NOW THAT THIS IS ALL OVER, I WAS WONDERING SOMETHING.
UH... IT'S ABOUT NATASHA. SEE, SHE AN' I WERE HITTING IT OFF PRETTY GOOD WHILE WE WERE OUT IN THE GREAT WHITE NORTH, Y'KNOW?
UM. SO, ANYWAY... I KNOW YOU GUYS USED TO BE AN ITEM AN' ALL, BUT I WAS WONDERING --
IT'S FINE, FOGGY. GO AHEAD AND ASK HER OUT. NO HARD FEELINGS. REALLY.
BUT JUST REMEMBER: SHE'S NOT CALLED THE BLACK WIDOW FOR NOTHING...


NICE NIGHT.
YUP.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM, DO YOU THINK?
THE OWL? I'M NOT SURE, PETER.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENED, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST. I HALF EXPECT TO TURN THE CORNER AND FIND MYSTERIO STARING ME IN THE FACE.
EXCEPT MYSTERIO'S DEAD - THEY'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD. THE LAST TIME I SAW COPPERHEAD, HE WAS LYING IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND AFTER HAVING TEN TRILLION VOLTS SENT THROUGH HIM.
HOW HE GRADUATED FROM CORPSE TO SATAN'S RIGHT HAND MAN IS BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION.
YEAH. THEY DO GROW UP SO QUICK, DON'T THEY?
PETER, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
IT'S BEEN AN EXPERIENCE, AS ALWAYS. YOU WERE VERY BRAVE.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
WE MAKE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM, DON'T WE?
LISTEN... I WANT YOU TO KNOW I DIDN'T MEAN IT -- ABOUT THAT WHOLE HELL'S KITCHEN ZEN WARRIOR THING. I WAS JUST LETTIN' OFF STEAM. I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE OFF ON YOU LIKE THAT.
I FEEL LIKE A REAL JERK.
IT'S OKAY... YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
YOU AND I ARE JUST VERY DIFFERENT, I GUESS... I'M NOT MUCH FOR HUMOR.

I GUESS. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, OKAY?
I WILL.
KICK ME!
THE END